



Skyline High School Principal Scott Miller and Skyline chemistry students react to the news of receiving \$5,000 for lab equipment and enhancements.

INL researchers donate \$5,000 Gordon Battelle Prizes to local high schools

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Chemistry programs at both Idaho Falls and Skyline high schools are each \$5,000 richer thanks to the generosity of recent Battelle Innovation awards for research achievements at Idaho National Laboratory.

Two technologies developed at INL received \$5,000 to be donated to area schools as part of the inaugural [Gordon Battelle Prizes](#) for scientific discovery and technology impact. The INL technologies were the [Supercritical Solid Catalyst \(SSC\)](#) and the [Next Generation Fuel for High Temperature Gas Cooled Reactors](#), which was developed in collaboration with [Oak Ridge National Laboratory](#). Each award included a \$5,000 grant for the school of the researcher's choice.

The Next Generation Fuel team, which set a world record with next-generation coated particle fuel for use in high temperature gas-cooled reactors, has received international attention and has established the United States as the lead for this type of technology. The team selected Skyline High School's chemistry and physics department for the award.

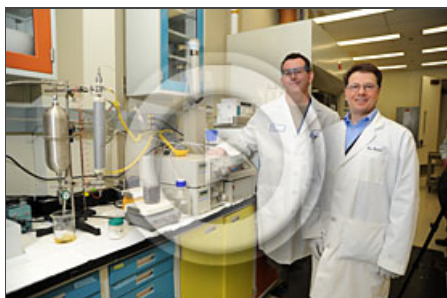
David Petti, director of the Very High Temperature Reactor Technology Development Office and team lead for the project, said Skyline was selected for the honor because of the school's need for additional equipment to help students in physics and chemistry.

"The timing is incredible because it has been a rough year. We've been through transitions, budget cuts," said chemistry teacher Gail Ochi. "To receive this kind of funding is just incredible."

Ochi said the money will be used to purchase a [gas chromatograph](#) the school can use for research projects. "This will be equipment the students can use each year," she said.

The SSC team chose to give its award to Idaho Falls High School's chemistry program and presented it to Barb Nelson's advanced chemistry class. The team, led by researchers Robert Fox and Dan Ginosar, won six highly competitive awards during 2010 for developing a process that discards environmentally unfriendly wastes and converts them into biodiesel fuels.

"We chose Idaho Falls High School's chemistry department because both of us were inspired by our chemistry teachers," said Ginosar. "We wanted to give back to the next generation."



View a video about INL's award-winning Supercritical Solid Catalyst technology which won a [2010 Gordon Battelle Prize](#).

Poking a little fun at himself, Fox said, "If my chemistry teacher could see me now, he would not believe that I have been part of award-winning research teams." Fox has won two R&D 100 Awards, has been INL's Inventor of the Year for the past two years, selected as Idaho's 2010 Innovator of the Year and chosen as a runner-up in R&D Magazine's Scientist of the Year competition in 2010. He pointed to how important teachers like Nelson can be in young people's academic and career development.

Phillip Finck, associate laboratory director for [Nuclear Science and Technology](#), and Greg Gibbs, [Next Generation Nuclear Plant](#) program director, recognized Petti and the Next Generation Fuel team with a ceremony in June.

Finck said awards like this are the reason national laboratories are created. He noted it is always nice for researchers to be honored by their parent organization.

Gibbs told the team the award was very important because it recognized the critical research that lays the foundation for the success of nuclear



Idaho Falls High School chemistry students examine the ceremonial \$5,000 scholarship check from the 2010 Gordon Battelle Prize for technology impact.

technology.

"This was really a team effort, and we have a great team," Petti said. "It is very heartening to see some of the great strides this team has been able to accomplish with the technology and rewarding to have Battelle recognize our efforts."

In announcing the prize-winners for this year, Battelle president and CEO Jeff Wadsworth said, "These awards are an opportunity to celebrate and honor the breakthrough achievements of the laboratories we manage, while promoting our commitment to learning and education."

Battelle is the world's largest nonprofit independent research and development organization.

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